

Please add new claims 21-37 as follows:

- 21. A method of making a porous article composed of bonded particles and having a controlled level of porosity, pore size and interconnectivity, the method comprising the steps

of:

- Sub  
C4
- B<sup>2</sup>
- a) forming a dispersion comprising a liquid carrier, particles to be bonded and a polymerizable monomeric material;
- b) adding a surfactant and then introducing small bubbles of oxygen containing gas into the dispersion with agitation to form a foam which is allowed or caused to coalesce;
- c) controlling an onset of polymerization, then *how? see pg 5*
- d) polymerizing the foamed structure;
- e) drying the structure to remove the liquid carrier and provide a solid article having pores derived from the bubbles and
- f) *article fired not final article*  
firing the article to a temperature to remove the organic material and to *undersinter* the formed article and thereby form the porous article which has a porosity of 20% to 95% and comprises pore walls and struts defining pores of pore sizes having a range of 15 to 150 micrometers and in which cells may easily be attached.
- ?

22. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the period until onset of polymerization is between an instantaneous polymerization and about 20 minutes.

23. The method according to Claim 21, including the step of controlling the onset of polymerization by adjusting addition levels of an initiator and catalyst for polymerization of the monomeric material.

24. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the particles in the dispersion are less than about 5 micrometers.

25. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the particles are hydroxyapatite, oxides and non-oxides.

26. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the content of the solids in the dispersion is about 10% to about 90% by weight.

27. The method according to Claim 26, wherein the content of the solids is about 40% to about 80% by weight.

B2  
Cont

28. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the liquid carrier is water, organic liquid or a mixture thereof.

29. The method according to Claim 21, including the step of adding a dispersing agent to the dispersion.

30. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the solid article is substantially dried and then fired at about 1250°C for two hours.

11d(1)?  
a 2nd time?  
31. The method according to Claim 21, wherein the solid article is dried and then fired at about 1350°C for about two hours.

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cont.  
32. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has a true porosity of from about 20% to about 95%.

33. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has pores in the pore size range of about 5 micrometers to about 20 micrometers.

34. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has pores in the pore size range of about 50 micrometers to about 150 micrometers.

35. A method according to Claim 21, wherein the formed body has pores having a pore size greater than about 150 micrometers.

36. A method according to Claim 21, including a subsequent step of growing bone cells in the porous product.

37. A method according to Claim 21, including a subsequent step of infilling the pores of the porous product with a drug. --

#### REMARKS

Claims 20-37 are pending, with Claim 20 withdrawn from consideration. By this Reply, Claims 21-37 are added, Claim 20 is amended and Claims 11-19 are cancelled. Claim 20 is amended to change its dependency to a pending independent claim. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current Reply. The attached page is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

#### CLAIM REJECTIONS

The following claims stand rejected over cited art:

a) Claims 11 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Sambrook et al. (WO 93/04013);